

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 10 are amended, and claims 8-10 are added. Claims 1, 3, and 5 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Claim Objection

The Examiner has objected to claim 10 because of an informality. In order to overcome this objection, claim 10 is amended herein in order to correct the deficiency pointed out by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over to Yamamoto et al. U.S. 4,765,160 in view of Koyamoto (Japanese Patent 59148837);

Claim 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of Mochizuki (Japanese Patent 02010127);

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of Mochizuki; and

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyamoto, as applied to 1, 2, 9, and 10 above, in further view of Sivyer (U.S. 4,510,343).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 3, and 5

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claims 1 and 5 are amended herein to recite combinations of elements directed to a water temperature sensor, including a water gauge chamber extending along an outer side of an outer edge of an outer tub of a washing machine.

Further, independent claim 3 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a water temperature sensor, including a hollow chamber

cap fitting into and thereby closing an opened bottom portion of a water gauge chamber, the water in the water gauge chamber being above the hollow chamber cap.

Support for

- a water gauge chamber extending along an outer side of one side of an outer tub of a washing machine (as set forth in claims 1 and 5), and
- a hollow chamber cap fitting into and thereby closing an opened bottom portion of a water gauge chamber, the water in the water gauge chamber being above the hollow chamber cap (as set forth in claim 3),

can be found in the specification, for example, on page 4, lines 19-21.

See also FIGS. 1 (a) and (b).

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamamoto, Koyamoto, and Mochizuki.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 5, none of the Yamamoto document, the Koyamoto document, nor the Mochizuki document teaches or suggests a water gauge chamber extending along an outer side of one side of an outer tub of a washing machine.

In particular, air trap 40 of Yamamoto is inside the outer tub 14 of the washing machine; and each of Koyamoto and Mochizuki is silent regarding water gauge chamber extending along an outer side of an outer edge of a washing machine. Thus, Koyamoto and Mochizuki fail to make up for the deficiencies of Yamamoto, as applied to the novel combinations of elements set forth in independent claims 1 and 5, respectively.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 3, neither the Yamamoto document nor the Mochizuki document teaches or suggests the water in the water gauge chamber being above the hollow chamber cap. Thus, Yamamoto and Mochizuki cannot be combined to teach or suggest independent claim 3 of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamamoto, Koyamoto, and Mochizuki, for the reasons explained above.

In view of the above amendments and arguments, independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are in condition for allowance. In addition, the dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependence on allowable independent claims, or due to the novel features contained therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

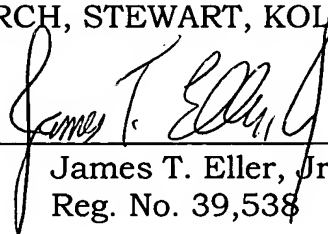
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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